**Transcript – How do I apply for the NDIS?**

How do you apply for the NDIS?

There are a few different ways. You can call 1800 800 110 or contact your Local Area Coordinator. Or you can contact your local NDIS office, and ask them for an “access request form”.

The NDIA will first ask questions to assess your eligibility for the NDIS. They will email or post the form to you depending on your preferences. Sometimes the NDIA may ask to help you fill out the form over the phone. They will ask you questions that you will answer for the form. You can insist on filling out the form yourself, without help from the NDIS. It will be emailed or posted to you.

The access request form asks questions like: What is your name? And please provide evidence of your identity. Or they may ask someone who helps you to provide evidence and information about you, to provide evidence of your identity. They will ask you questions to see if you are eligible for the NDIS. They may ask you questions about your age, where you live, what your disability is. They will also ask you about providing consent for the NDIS to have information about you. And for the NDIS to ask others about you – whether or not you have a disability, and your identity.

If you currently get disability supports, and you would like your support provider to give us information about you, they can. But, you must first provide consent. You may be ask more questions, and to provide more information. They might ask you to fill out the Access Request form. Then ask you for more information. They might ask questions about your disability, questions about your everyday life, what is easy? What is difficult? What barriers you face?

You can provide copies of your information about yourself and evidence you have to the NDIA. Evidence can be letters or reports. You can ask your doctor or local health professional to fill out and sign a form about you. Once you send the form to the NDIA, the NDIA will think about and decide on your application within 21 days. They may ask for more information, for example, a report from your doctor. It could be the ophthalmologist and/or audiologist. They may request more information.

For more information, contact a Deafblind consultant. The email address is: deafblind.consultant@senses.org.au

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